

THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO

2. A storage system according to Claim 1, further comprising:

means for discriminating, when said monitor means detects a failure, the data storage means at fault

5. A storage system according to Claim 1, further comprising:

time of day means; and

means connected to said time of day means and said monitor means for monitoring whether or not when starting said plurality of data storage means, said error code storage means and said spare storage means, a starting voltage for said means is within a predetermined range.

6. A storage system according to Claim 1, further comprising:

time of day means; and

check means connected to said time of day means and said monitor means for sending a pseudo-instruction for reading out the data stored in a predetermined location to said plurality of data storage means, said error code storage means and said spare storage means, thereby to check responses sent therefrom.

7. A storage system according to Claim 1, further comprising:

time of day means; and

check means connected to said time of day means and said monitor means for checking an error on the basis of the data which is read out from said error code storage means, when the data in said plurality of data storage means is accessed.

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8. A storage system according to Claim 1, further comprising:

time of day means; and

means for judging whether or not a period of time from the time when a failure occurs in any of said data storage means to the present time is within a predetermined limit time zone and making, when the period of time exceeds the limit time zone, the data reconstruction take precedence over the access to said data storage means.

9. A data reconstruction system for a memory comprising:

a group of storage units for striping data into plural data of bit unit, byte unit or arbitrary unit, the plural independent storage units forming a set;

discs for storing therein ECC data corresponding to the striped data;

a spare storage unit for storing therein reconstructed data;

an I/O-reconstruction control unit for receiving a command relating to I/O issued from a host unit to execute processing according to the command or respond to said host unit;

a data reconstructing table for the storage unit at fault;

a circuit for reconstructing faulty data which performs discovery of faulty storage unit, data

reconstruction, and write of the reconstructed data to said spare storage unit,

said faulty data reconstructing circuit detecting, when a failure occurs in any of said storage units, the failure by an error check to inform said I/O-reconstruction control circuit of the failure occurrence, said I/O reconstruction control circuit discriminating a state of the failure; and

judgement means for selecting preferred processing suitable for the state of the failure out of processing of access or read/write and data reconstruction processing, thereby to carry out the selected processing.

10. A data reconstruction system for a memory according to Claim 9, wherein said I/O-reconstruction control circuit sets the frequency of the processing of access or read/write and data reconstruction, or the ratio of the processing amount, in correspondence to the state of the failure.

11. A data reconstruction system for a memory according to Claim 9, further comprising:

a timer for giving the point of failure, and the present time; and

means for comparing the elapsed time during the restriction with a predetermined limit time to select the preferred processing operation.

12. A data reconstruction method used with a memory comprising the steps of:

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performing access or read/write to or from data in parallel which is stored in storage units by striping data into the plural data of bit unit, byte unit or arbitrary unit, with the plural independent storage units as a set, and performing an error check during the access or read/write to or from the data;

detecting, when a failure occurs, the storage unit at fault by the error check, and reconstructing data stored in the storage unit at fault as long as the number of storage units at fault is within a predetermined value, while performing the processing of the normal access or read/write;

storing the reconstructed data in a spare storage unit; and

determining that either the processing of the normal access or read/write, or the data reconstruction processing is given preference in correspondence to a state of the failure.

13. A data reconstruction method used with a memory according to Claim 12, further comprising the steps of:

judging whether or not the number of storage units of which failure is not yet completed exceeds the threshold; and

changing the priority of the processing of the normal access or read/write, or the data reconstruction processing.

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14. A data reconstruction method used with a memory according to Claim 12, wherein the priority of the processing of the normal access or read/write, or the data reconstruction processing is changed in accordance with the number of storage units of which failure is not yet reconstructed, and the reconstruction processing time of the storage units which broke down.
15. A data reconstruction method used with a memory according to Claim 12, wherein the priority of the processing of the normal access or read/write, or the data reconstruction processing is changed in accordance with the number of storage units of which failure is not yet reconstructed, and the time zone when the processing of the normal access or read/write is performed.
16. A data reconstruction method used with a memory according to Claim 12, wherein the priority of the processing of access or read/write, or the data reconstruction processing is changed in accordance with the number of storage units of which failure is not yet reconstructed, the accumulating totals of the reconstruction processing time of the storage units which broke down, and the frequency of the processing of access or read/write within a unit time.
17. A data reconstruction method used with a memory according to Claim 16, wherein when the frequency of the processing of access or read/write within a unit time is less than the threshold, the frequency of the

data reconstruction processing within the unit time or the ratio of the amount of data reconstruction processing is dynamically set in accordance to the frequency of the processing of access or read/write within the unit time.

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